

REMARKS

Claims 40-57, 65, and 66 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 67-70 have been added. Accordingly, claims 67-70 are pending in the application. The new claims are supported throughout the specification, including at page 5, lines 15-18.

The Examiner indicated claims 44, 45, 54, and 55 are allowable in independent format. New claims 67-70 are claims 44, 45, 54, and 55 in independent format. Favorable consideration of claims 67-70 is respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant filed a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on November 8, 2002. Applicant respectfully requests Examiner acknowledge receipt of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and return the initialed PTO-1449 form.

Rejection of Claims Under § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 40-43, 46-53, 56, 57, 65, and 66 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, without acquiescing to the rejection and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 40-43, 46-53, 56-57 and 65-66 rendering the rejection moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 40-43, 46-53, 56, 57, 65, and 66 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking written description. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 40-43, 46-53, 56-57 and 65-66. This renders the rejection moot.

Based on the forgoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections.

Conclusion

Applicant submits the claims are in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for clarification of any of the amendments and remarks or to otherwise facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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